

Re. : Amendment and Response to Office Action Mailed July 1, 2005
Appl. No. : 09/228,325
Filed : January 11, 1999

I. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listing of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard assembly that is sized and configured for playing the game of basketball, the basketball backboard assembly comprising:

a basketball backboard frame structure having a bonding surface;

an acrylic basketball backboard having a bonding surface; and

a catalyzed elastomeric adhesive sandwiched between the frame bonding surface and the backboard bonding surface, wherein the elastomeric adhesive provides sufficient adhesion and flexibility to the acrylic backboard and frame structure bonding surface to be used in the game of basketball.

2. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 1, wherein the elastomeric adhesive has a bond gap in the range from about 2 to 2.5 mm (0.08 to 0.1 inch).

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

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5. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 1, wherein the elastomeric adhesive is a two-part catalyzed adhesive in which the two parts are combined in a ratio to provide a set time in the range from about 7 to 15 minutes.

6. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 1, wherein the elastomeric adhesive is a two-part catalyzed adhesive in which the two parts are combined in a ratio to provide a set time in the range from about 5 minutes to 1 hour.

7. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 1, further comprising one or more bond gap spacers located between the frame bonding surface and the backboard bonding surface to provide a defined bond gap.

8. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 7, wherein the one or more bond gap spacers comprise spherical beads.

9. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 7, wherein the one or more bond gap spacers comprise glass microspheres.

10. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 7, wherein the one or more bond gap spacers comprise glass microspheres that have a diameter in the

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range from about 2 to 2.5 mm (0.08 to 0.1 inch).

11. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 1, wherein the backboard frame structure is constructed from metal.

12. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 1, wherein the backboard frame structure is painted metal.

13. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 1, wherein the backboard bonding surface contains a printed image.

14. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard assembly that is sized and configured for playing the game of basketball, the basketball backboard assembly comprising:

a metal basketball backboard frame structure having a bonding surface;

an acrylic basketball backboard having a bonding surface;

a catalyzed silicone adhesive sandwiched between the frame bonding surface and the backboard bonding surface, wherein the silicone adhesive is configured to provide a set time in the range from about 5 minutes to 1 hour, wherein the silicone adhesive provides sufficient adhesion and flexibility to the acrylic backboard and frame structure bonding surfaces to be used in the game of basketball; and

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one or more bond gap spacers located between the frame bonding surface and the backboard bonding surface to provide the bond gap.

15. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 14, wherein the silicone adhesive is configured to provide a set time in the range from about 7 to 15 minutes.

16. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 14, wherein the one or more bond gap spacers comprise spherical beads.

17. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 14, wherein the one or more bond gap spacers comprise glass microspheres.

18. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 14, wherein the one or more bond gap spacers comprise glass microspheres that have a diameter in the range from about 2 to 2.5 mm (0.08 to 0.1 inch).

Claims 19-43 (Cancelled).

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44. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly comprising:
- a basketball backboard frame;
 - a basketball backboard constructed from acrylic; and
 - a catalyzed silicone-based adhesive connecting the basketball backboard and the basketball backboard frame and positioned between at least a portion of the basketball backboard and at least a portion of the basketball backboard frame.
45. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 44, wherein the basketball backboard frame is constructed from metal ~~acrylic~~.
46. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard assembly comprising:
- a basketball backboard frame;
 - a basketball backboard; and
 - a catalyzed elastomeric ~~polymeric~~ adhesive connecting the basketball backboard and the basketball backboard frame and positioned between at least a portion of the basketball backboard and at least a portion of the basketball backboard frame.
47. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 46, wherein the basketball backboard is constructed from acrylic.

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48. (Currently Amended) A basketball backboard assembly comprising:
- a basketball backboard frame;
 - a basketball backboard; and
 - a catalyzed elastomeric polymer adhesive connecting the basketball backboard and the basketball backboard frame and positioned between at least a portion of the basketball backboard and at least a portion of the basketball backboard frame.
49. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 48, wherein the basketball backboard is constructed from acrylic.
50. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly comprising:
- a basketball backboard frame;
 - a basketball backboard; and
 - a silicone-based adhesive connecting the basketball backboard and the basketball backboard frame and positioned between at least a portion of the basketball backboard and at least a portion of the basketball backboard frame.
51. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 50, wherein the basketball backboard is constructed from acrylic.

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52. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly comprising:
a basketball backboard frame;
a basketball backboard;
a silicone-based adhesive connecting the basketball backboard and the basketball backboard frame and positioned between at least a portion of the basketball backboard and at least a portion of the basketball backboard frame; and
one or more bond gap spacers positioned between at least a portion of the basketball backboard and at least a portion of the basketball backboard frame to provide a defined bond gap.

53. (Previously Presented) A basketball backboard assembly as in Claim 52, wherein the basketball backboard is constructed from acrylic.